

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 MC-02 H-03 EB-11

DRC-01 /162 W

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R 062020Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3133

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3540

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: EUROGROUP COMMUNIQUE

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EUROGROUP COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF  
EUROGROUP MEETING DECEMBER 6:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE EUROGROUP MET AT NATO HQ'S IN BRUSSELS ON  
6 DEC 73 IN MINISTERIAL SESSION UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF  
MR MARIO TANASSI (DEFENSE MINISTER OF ITALY). THE EUROGROUP  
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COUNTRIES ARE BELGIUM, DENMARK, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,  
GREECE, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, TURKEY  
AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

2. MINISTERS HAD A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR ISSUES CURRENTLY CONCERNING THE ALLIANCE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE WAY

IN WHICH THESE AFFECTED EUROPEAN MEMBERS. THEY REVIEWED, IN PARTICULAR, THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF THEIR FORCES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE AND

APPROVED THE ANNEXED STATEMENT ON THEIR PLANS FOR 1974. FOR THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE YEAR THEY FORECAST A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DEFENCE BUDGET TOTALS WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE CONTINUING INTRODUCTION OF MODERN EQUIPMENT, AGAIN EMPHASISES THEIR DETERMINATION TO PLAY THEIR FULL PART IN MAINTAINING ALLIANCE DEFENCE.

3. MINISTERS WELCOMED THE CONTINUING EFFORTS BEING MADE IN MANY FIELDS TOWARDS DETENTE PARTICULARLY BY MEANS OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE AND THE CONFERENCE ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCED REDUCTIONS. THEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS SO FAR NO SIGN OF ANY LESSENING IN THE WARSAW PACT'S ARMS BUILD-UP AND THEY DISCUSSED THE INCREASING DIFFICULTY WHICH ALL THE ALLIED COUNTRIES FACED IN KEEPING ABREAST OF THIS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE. MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR RESOLVE TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY EUROGROUP COUNTRIES TO THE ALLIANCE.

4. MINISTERS EXCHANGED VIEWS, IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETINGS, ON THE

CURRENT SITUATION FACING THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, INCLUDING QUESTIONS

RELATED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF UNITED STATES FORCES IN EUROPE, AND INVITED THEIR CHAIRMAN TO REPORT TO THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE THE

FOLLOWING DAY.

5. MINISTERS CONTINUED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION AND AFFIRMED THEIR VIEW THAT THE EUROGROUP HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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PROVED AN APPROPRIATE AND WELL TESTED FORUM FOR THIS PURPOSE. THEY AGREED TO ADD TWO NEW PROJECTS TO THE EUROGROUP LIST OF EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION. THEY DIRECTED THEIR NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS TO STIMULATE PROGRESS ON SOME OF THE OTHER PROJECTS BY IDENTIFYING FOR THEM THOSE WHICH OFFERED THE GREATEST PROSPECTS FOR COLLABORATION SO THAT THEY COULD GIVE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS AT AN EARLY STAGE.

6. MINISTERS ALSO REVIEWED CURRENT WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING CO-OPERATION IN TRAINING, LOGISTICS, MEDICAL SERVICES AND LONGTERM PLANNING. THEY NOTED THAT CONSIDERABLE PREPARATORY WORK HAD BEEN DONE AND THAT THERE NOW APPEARED TO BE SCOPE FOR SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

7. MINISTERS REVIEWED THE SPECIAL ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN DEFENCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME BEGUN IN DECEMBER 1970 AND WELCOMED THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THAT PROGRAMME. THE SHELTER PROGRAMME BEING FINANCED BY THE SPECIAL EUROGROUP INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 420 M AT 1970 RATES OF EXCHANGE IS GOING AHEAD WELL AND SOME 1600 SHELTERS AT 73 AIRFIELDS HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED. WORK AMOUNTING TO OVER THREE QUARTERS OF THE TOTAL SUM IS CURRENTLY COMPLETED OR IN HAND. ALL THE EXTRA FORCE IMPROVEMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE AS PLANNED. ALL THE C130 AIRCRAFT AND 44 OF THE CH53 HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. THE IMPROVED AIRFIELD AND STORAGE FACILITIES ON THE NORTHERN FLANK ARE

PRACTICALLY COMPLETED. PLANS FOR THE EXTRA JAGUAR SQUADRONS REMAIN ON SCHEDULE AND THE ADDITIONAL ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT IS OPERATIONAL.

8. MR FOSTERVOLL (DEFENCE MINISTER OF NORWAY) ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO TAKE THE CHAIR AT THEIR MEETINGS IN 1974.

#### ANNEX

##### EUROPEAN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS

1. WARSAW PACT STRENGTH CONTINUES TO INCREASE BOTH IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY. THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES, THEREFORE, REMAIN CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR NATO TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS OWN CAPABILITY. IN THEIR VIEW THE OPENING OF MBFR TALKS  
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MAKES THIS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, SINCE ANY UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS WOULD INEVITABLY UNDERMINE THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION.

##### MAJOR NEW EQUIPMENT

2. NATO'S "AD 70" STUDIES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE GUIDELINES FOR FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO SHAPE THEIR DEFENCE PROGRAMMES ACCORDINGLY. IN 1974, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE EUROPEAN CAPABILITY IN CRITICAL AD 70 AREAS WILL CONTINUE. MAJOR NEW EQUIPMENT TO BE BROUGHT INTO SERVICE DURING THE COURSE OF NEXT YEAR WILL INCLUDE:

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#### IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S ARMOUR/ANTI-ARMOUR CAPABILITY

474	MAIN BATTLE TANKS
1079	OTHER ARMoured VEHICLES
199	ANTI-ARMOUR WEAPONS

#### IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S AIR CAPABILITY

195 MODERN COMBAT AND MARITIME  
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#### PATROL AIRCRAFT

140	LAND BASED HELICOPTERS
820	ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUIDED MISSILES
853	ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNDS

IN ADDITION THE AIRCRAFT SHELTER PROGRAMME WHICH IS BEING  
PAID FOR OUT OF EXTRA FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER EDIP IS GOING  
AHEAD WELL.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S NAVAL CAPABILITY

5	DESTROYERS/ESCORTS
15	SUBMARINES (INCLUDING ONE NUCLEAR POWERED)
10	FAST PATROL BOATS

3. IN LAST YEAR'S EUROPACKAGE WE ANNOUNCED A PLANNED INCREASE IN EUROGROUP DEFENCE BUDGETS OF \$1 1/2 BILLION. THE INCREASE HAS, IN FACT, BEEN \$2.9 BILLION - AN INCREASE OF BETWEEN 3 AND 4 PCT IN REAL TERMS. NEXT YEAR, TO ENABLE THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE EFFORT TO BE MAINTAINED AND IMPROVED, THE PLANNED DEFENCE BUDGETS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE AGAIN BEING INCREASED. IN 1974 THEY WILL BE SOME \$2 BILLION MORE THAN IN 1973.

4. THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES WILL, THEREFORE, IN 1974, ONCE AGAIN BE MAKING SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE.

#### FORWARD DEPLOYMENT

5. PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT IS, OF COURSE, ONLY PART OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE EFFORT; THE EUROPEAN NATIONS SUPPLY THE BULK OF NATO'S MANPOWER IN EUROPE. AND IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE FORWARD DEFENCE, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TOGETHER HAVE OVER 110,000 SERVICEMEN AND ASSOCIATED CIVILIAN NATIONALS (NEARLY 20 PCT OF THEIR TOTAL ARMED FORCES - 35 PCT IN THE CASE OF BELGIUM) AND SOME 130,000 DEPENDENTS STATIONED OUTSIDE NATIONAL TERRITORY IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES.

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#### IMPROVED COOPERATION

6. THE MAIN THRUST OF ACTION BY THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES IN MAKING THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF NATO'S DEFENCE POSTURE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATO'S AD 70 WORK, AND IS REFLECTED IN THEIR EXTENSIVE BUDGET PROVISIONS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE CONTINUING LARGE-SCALE ACQUISITION OF MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR NATO-DECLARED FORCES. THE AD 70 RECOMMENDATIONS, HOWEVER, WERE NOT CONFINED TO RESOURCE CONSUMING ACTION OF THIS KIND. THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES RECOGNISE THAT POLITICAL WILL IS AS IMPORTANT AN INGREDIENT OF AN EFFECTIVE DEFENCE EFFORT AS THE ALLOCATION OF SUFFICIENT RESOURCES. THIS IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE EUROGRUPS COUNTRIES' RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL CATEGORY OF AD 70 MEASURES REQUIRING RELATIVELY MINOR EXPENDITURE BUT ENERGETIC ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION. FOR INSTANCE

A. THE FLEXIBILITY OF NATO'S AIR CAPABILITY IS GREATLY ENHANCED BY REGULAR PRACTICE IN OPERATING ONE NATION'S AIRCRAFT FROM OTHER NATION'S AIRFIELDS: THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT YEARLY INCREASES IN SUCH CROSS-TRAINING.

B. IN THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT, INCREASING COMMON USE IS

BEING MADE OF NATIONAL FACILITIES WHILE THE INAUGURATION  
THIS YEAR OF A STANDING NAVAL FORCE CHANNEL, FORMED OF  
VESSELS PROVIDED BY BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE  
UNITED KINGDOM, DEMONSTRATES THE WILL TO ACHIEVE A  
GREATER CAPABILITY THROUGH COOPERATION.

C. NETHERLANDS SUBMARINES ARE OPERATING WITH BRITISH  
SUBMARINES AS FULLY INTEGRATED ELEMENTS OF A NATO  
DECLARED SQUADRON BASED IN SCOTLAND.

D. NETHERLANDS MARINE UNITS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN  
REORGANISED TO ENABLE THEM TO OPERATE IN WARTIME  
AS INTEGRAL ELEMENTS OF BRITISH MARINE GROUPS.

E. BOTH IN THE CENTRAL REGION AND ON THE FLANKS THE  
EUROGROUP NATIONS ARE HELPING TO PRODUCE MORE  
RESPONSIVE COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
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GROUND FORCES TO ENABLE TRANSFER TO NATO CONTROL IN AN  
EMERGENCY TO TAKE PLACE EARLIER AND MORE SIMPLY.

F. THE UK, GERMANY AND GREECE HAVE AGREED TO EARMARK TO  
NATO ADDITIONAL LAND AND AIR FORMATIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD  
UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND.

7. THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE EUROGROUP'S CONTINUING  
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALLIANCE.

END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

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